

INDIANA Epidemiology NEWSLETTER



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International Travel Clinics in Indiana

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Becoming a yellow fever vaccine provider, also known as an international travel clinic, is an easy process. Despite the ease of this process, many Indiana counties lack adequate coverage (please refer to the map on page 6). The intent of this article is to provide information to health care providers about the requirements for becoming a travel clinic and to help reduce health risks for those traveling abroad. It is not intended to serve as an comprehensive source of information on travel-related risks or diseases.

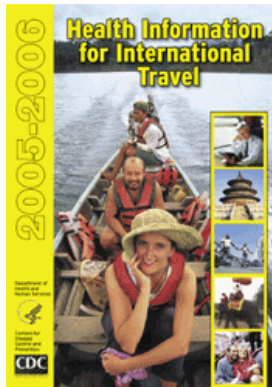
Disease Risks for International Travelers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the following diseases are most commonly associated with international travel:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Japanese Encephalitis (for those visiting rural areas four weeks or longer)
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Polio
- Rabies
- Tetanus
- Typhoid Fever
- Yellow Fever

Information regarding the above travel-related diseases can be found at the follow web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases.htm>. In addition, the *Yellow Book* is published by the CDC every two years. It is widely considered to be the best guide for reducing disease risks when traveling overseas. The *Yellow Book* provides information on vaccines needed when visiting a particular country as well as general safety recommendations. It is strongly recommended that international travelers receive their vaccines 4-6 weeks prior to traveling outside of the United States.

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There are many risks of disease exposure when traveling abroad. U.S. citizens often do not have the immunity that local populations may have. Some groups, such as pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems, have additional risks. A new risk group, known as VFRs (visiting friends and relatives), has recently been identified. These are immigrant populations from developing countries who have emigrated to the United States and return to visit their country of origin. In 2002, 40 percent of U.S. citizens traveling abroad were VFRs. VFRs appear to be at greater risk for malaria, typhoid fever, and hepatitis A. In 2002, 45 percent of the imported cases of malaria cases occurred in VFRs. Most cases of typhoid fever are imported, and 77 percent of these cases occur in VFRs. Many of these travelers may consider themselves immune when they are not.

The impact of disease cases imported into the U.S. can be substantial. Those infected overseas can bring the disease to the U.S., where it can circulate among others who are not protected. In Indiana, in 2005, 32 cases of measles resulted from a single case imported into the state. This unvaccinated person was infected while traveling abroad; the disease was further transmitted throughout an unvaccinated population. Virtually all cases of measles in the U.S. can be traced to international travel.

While no longer a threat in the U.S., several mosquito-borne diseases, such as yellow fever, malaria, and dengue fever are still endemic in certain countries. Figure 1 shows the locations where yellow fever is still endemic. Although a documented case of imported yellow fever has not occurred in Indiana for many years, the risk is still present when traveling to those countries where the disease is still endemic.

Figure 1.

Yellow Fever-Endemic Zones

Africa



South America



Yellow fever vaccine is the only vaccine that may be **required** in some countries. All other vaccines are only recommended by the CDC.

Becoming an International Travel Clinic

Currently, 74 clinics are registered in Indiana. Twelve of these are located at local health departments (LHD); 54 are located at private physician offices; and eight are located at private businesses, hospitals, and universities. The CDC Web site is updated each time a new travel clinic is added to registry. Private citizens can access the CDC travel Web site and identify a nearby travel clinic. (The travel clinic can choose not to be included on the CDC Web site.) Indiana travel clinics are also posted on the ISDH web site.

To become a travel clinic, a health care provider or LHD must first contact the ISDH. The provider or LHD will receive a packet of information that includes: a Yellow Fever Vaccination Authorization form, Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) report, a fact sheet on the proper storage of vaccines, and the proper format of the yellow fever stamp. An application from Sanofi Pasteur, which manufactures yellow fever vaccine, is also provided in the packet.

Each provider's office or LHD must have its own unique stamp number for administration of yellow fever vaccine. The LHD stamp number is based on the county and city where the LHD is located. Each county and city has an individual code number beginning with the number 13, the state code number for Indiana. Physician offices simply use the license number of the physician who is responsible for the vaccines being administered.

Yellow fever vaccine can be purchased from Sanofi Pasteur and can be purchased as five-dose or single-dose vials. A minimum of five vials must be purchased when ordering single-dose vials. Yellow fever vaccine has a shelf life of six months. Yellow fever vaccine and other travel vaccines may be purchased by contacting Sanofi Pasteur at:

Sanofi Pasteur (formerly Aventis Pasteur)
Discovery Drive
Swiftwater, PA 18370
1.800.VACCINE (822.2463)
www.vaccineshoppe.com

International Certificate of Vaccination, PHS-731 (yellow shot card), may be required in certain countries for proof of yellow fever vaccination, may be required in certain countries. Every yellow fever vaccination administered must be stamped in the space provided in the yellow shot card. These certificates of vaccination can be purchased in bundles of 100 for \$15.00 or \$1.25 individually. The stock number is 017-001-00483-9. To purchase International Certificate of Vaccine, contact:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington D.C. 20402
1.202.512.1800 or 1.866.512.1800

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR REVACCINATION AGAINST YELLOW FEVER

CERTIFICAT INTERNATIONAL DE VACCINATION DU DE REVACCINATION CONTRE LA FIEVRE JAUNE

This is to certify that
Je soussigné(e) certifie que

whose signature follows
dont la signature suit

sex:
sexe

date of birth
né(e)

has on the date indicated been vaccinated or revaccinated against yellow fever.
A été vacciné(e) ou revacciné(e) contre la fièvre jaune à la date indiquée.

Date	Signature and professional status of vaccinator Signature et titre du vaccinateur	Manufacturer & Batch number of vaccine Fabricant du vaccin Et numéro du lot	Official stamp of Vaccinating center Cachet officiel du Centre de vaccination
1.			
2.			

Currently, the International Certificate of Vaccination is on back order. Per CDC recommendations, as a temporary measure, health care providers should document vaccination on official letterhead and date, sign, and stamp the letter. The traveler should retain the letter as documentation to present at time of revaccination.

As international travel increases, it is important to have adequate travel clinic coverage available to protect both international travelers as well as all Hoosiers. To become a travel clinic or to obtain more information, please contact Mike Wilkinson, Public Health Investigator, Indiana State Department of Health, at 317.234.2827 or mwilkins@isdh.IN.gov.

Resources

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> (CDC Travel Web site--also provides cruise ship information)
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases.htm>
http://www.IN.gov/isdh/healthinfo/international/international_1.htm (ISDH Travel Web site)
<http://www.who.int/ith/en/> (World Health Organization)
<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm> (Vaccine Information Sheets)
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/yb/> (Ordering Yellow Book)
www.us.elsevierhealth.com (Ordering Yellow Book)
<http://bookstore.gpo.gov/> (Ordering International Certificates of Vaccination)
<http://www.who.int/bookorders/index.htm> (Additional Source for Ordering Certificates)
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1179.html (Federal State Department Guidelines)

References:

Health Information for International Travel, Department of Health and Human Services, 2005-2006 edition, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pgs 321, 501-504

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Policies for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centers
Designated by the Indiana State Department of Health

1. The physicians and local health departments designated by the ISDH as Yellow Fever Vaccination Centers are required to follow national policies for yellow fever vaccination activities as promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
2. A Yellow Fever Vaccination Center designated by the ISDH is authorized to administer yellow fever vaccine only within jurisdiction of the ISDH.
3. Vaccine will be shipped directly to the vaccination center for administration at the center. It may not be transported or administered onboard ship or aircraft.
4. The uniform stamp used to validate the International Certificate of Vaccination or Revaccination against yellow fever must be approved by the ISDH. It may be used to certify only the vaccinations administered by the center.
5. Centers are required to report adverse reactions and complications to yellow fever vaccine, which are of sufficient severity to require medical attention.
6. Centers are required to report immediately loss or theft of the uniform stamp.

